PURPOSE
To direct flow of traffic in a way that minimizes potential transmission of infection.

POLICY
Patient care areas should not be used as an access route to get from one area of the hospital to another.

SCOPE
This policy applies to all employees, medical and professional staff, students and volunteers of Cooley Dickinson Hospital and its satellites.

PROCEDURE
A. Patients:
   1. Patient movement throughout the hospital should take place so there is minimal exposure of patients to each other and to visitors.

   2. Isolation patients who must travel to other areas of the hospital for diagnostic testing should only do so using the appropriate barriers. The receiving department must be notified in advance of the patient’s status. Precaution requirements should be noted on the Hall Pass and communicated to the transporter.

   3. Isolation patients must meet criteria specified in the Infection Prevention Isolation Precautions policy to ambulate in the hall or stairwells. Ambulation should be done during periods of low activity, e.g., not during tray passing. The patient must wear a freshly laundered robe/gown, wear a mask if indicated, have all wounds/drainage contained and clean hands prior to entering the hall.

B. Wastes:
   1. All contaminated supplies, equipment, and construction debris are moved in closed containers.

   2. All hazardous infectious waste is put in red bags in the department of generation, stored in the Soiled Utility Room, picked up by Environmental Services and transported in covered containers to a secured area away from the general traffic flow area of the hospital, where it awaits pick-up and transportation to an offsite disposal.

C. Clean/Sterile Supplies and Equipment:
   Clean/sterile supplies and equipment are transported to the OR in covered containers. Clean supplies to Patient Care areas are transported on clean carts and stored in designated clean areas which are separate from dirty areas.

D. Special Needs Areas:
   Areas with special needs for traffic control include the Operating Room, Labor and Delivery, the Newborn Nursery and the Laboratories. These areas have department specific policies.
SEARCH WORDS  Traffic control, patient ambulation, medical waste, infectious waste, trash, supplies, equipment, laundry

REGULATIONS  TJC IC .01.04.01

POLICY OWNER  Infection Prevention Manager

STAKEHOLDER APPROVAL  Director of Profession Development
                        Director of Environmental Services

FINAL APPROVAL BY  Medical Director of Infection Prevention

MOST RECENT REVIEW/REVISION DATE  Date of Original Approval: July 2001
                                    Most Recent Review: March 2015

Signatures:

_____________________________________________________________________________
Linda Riley, Manager of Infection Prevention  Date

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Joanne Levin, Medical Director of Infection Prevention  Date